AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. In a wireless telecommunication system, a method of transmitting signaling messages among a plurality of entities, said signaling messages transmitted using a protocol having a standard portion for transmitting standard messages, and an extension portion for transmitting non-standard messages, comprising the steps of:

transmitting standard messages, using the standard portion of the protocol;

assigning to each pair of communicating entities, an extended protocol;

communicating between pairs of entities, using the assigned extended protocol;
and

in response to receipt of a message ~~outside the Standard~~ comprising data in an extension portion of said protocol, determining the source of the message, and interpreting the message in accordance with the ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol assigned for communications between a source and recipient entity;

wherein at least one entity can communicate in at least two different extension portions of said protocol.

CLAIM 2 (canceled)

CLAIM 3 (currently amended):

3. The method of Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said at least one entity can translate between compatible messages in a first ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol and a second ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol.

CLAIM 4 (currently amended):

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein an ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol operations code, not defined in the standard portion of the protocol.

CLAIM 5 (currently amended):

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said assigned ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one parameter identifier not included in said standard ~~protocol~~ portion.

CLAIM 6 (currently amended):

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol further comprises at least one operations code not included in said standard ~~protocol~~ portion.

CLAIM 7 (currently amended):

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a message for switching to a different ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol between the communicating entities.

CLAIM 8 (original):

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said standard protocol is an IS-41 Protocol.

CLAIM 9 (currently amended):

9. In a wireless telecommunication system, apparatus for transmitting signaling messages among a plurality of entities, said signaling messages transmitted using a protocol having a standard portion for transmitting standard messages, and an extension portion for transmitting non-standard messages, comprising processor means for controlling execution of the following steps:

transmitting standard messages, using the standard portion of the protocol;

assigning to each pair of communicating entities, an extended protocol;

communicating between pairs of entities, using the extended protocol; and

in response to receipt of a message ~~outside the Standard~~ comprising data in an extension portion of said protocol, determining the source of the message, and interpreting the message in accordance with the ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol assigned for communications between a source and recipient entity;

wherein at least one entity can communicate in at least two different extension portions of said protocol.

CLAIM 10 (canceled)

CLAIM 11 (currently amended):

11. The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said at least one entity can translate between compatible messages in a first ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol and a second ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol.

CLAIM 12 (currently amended):

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein an ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol operations code, not defined in the standard portion of the protocol.

CLAIM 13 (currently amended):

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said assigned ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol comprises at least one parameter code not included in said standard ~~protocol~~ portion.

CLAIM 14 (currently amended):

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol further comprises at least one operations code not included in said standard ~~protocol~~ portion.

CLAIM 15 (currently amended):

15. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said processor means are for further controlling the step of transmitting a message for switching to a different ~~extended~~ extension portion of said protocol between the communicating entities.

CLAIM 16 (original):

16. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said standard protocol is an IS-41 Protocol.